



*Deb Schulte*  
*Local and Regional Councillor*

January 24, 2011

Dear Mr. Minnes:

**RE: 407 Transitway from Highway 400 to Kennedy Road Environmental Project Report**

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the above referenced EA Process and specifically the GO Barrie Station location, and to support the concerns raised by the affected Concord West ratepayers. Please accept this letter as my submission in relation to the Final Environmental Project Report.

Due to the fact that the Province provided the Notice of Completion on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010, and therefore staff could not bring forward a report to Council before the submission deadline, it provided little opportunity for our Council, five of which are new members, to review the project and make comment before the deadline for submissions, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2011. Staff will be bringing a report to Council at our next Committee of the Whole on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, so please expect further comments after our Council meeting February 15<sup>th</sup>. I understand this report was forwarded to you today by our staff.

As you are aware, the proximity of the proposed intermodal hub (Highway 407 Transitway station/Concord GO station/ YRT/VIVA bus access) and the commuter parking lot will have a significant impact on the existing residential community to the west, as well as impacting the neighbouring green space and valley lands. The proposed hub and parking lot is to be constructed in an area currently serving as a natural greenspace adjacent to the West Don (Bartley Smith Greenway) which currently serves as an important linkage area up the West Don to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Enhancing this natural linkage area by including more greenspace where possible, is an important element of the TRCA's Natural Heritage Strategy and the Provinces objectives. If it could be possible to meet the needs of MTO and preserve this greenspace it would be a win-win for all.

It is clear to me that this EA has been in the works for at least three years and has preceded some of the recent work undertaken by the City of Vaughan to incorporate the requirements of the Places to Grow Act in its New Official Plan. The area surrounding the proposed Go Barrie station location has been designated in the Official Plan as an area for intensification and in need of a secondary plan. The secondary plan will identify what development will be appropriate and what phasing of infrastructure might be necessary to properly support this intensification and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) just west of this area.

I am making a formal request for MTO to commit to working closely together with the City of Vaughan and the Region of York during this secondary plan phase and address all concerns raised by area residents, as well as by Council, and amend the 407 Transitway Environmental Project Report as needed, based on the approved secondary plan. I would also request that MTO protect for the full range of options that might be included in the secondary plan. Additionally, I would request that during the design process stage, that the City and area residents be consulted and kept in the loop through community meetings.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project. I hope that the comments raised by myself, by City staff and other Members of Council, as well as all the comments brought forward by the Concord West Residents Ad Hoc Committee, the Concord West Seniors Club, and the Concord West Ratepayers' Association be taken seriously into consideration.

Should you require further information or clarification on any of the above, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully yours,



Deb Schulte  
Local and Regional Councillor

Cc: Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario  
Hon. John Wilkinson, Minister of Environment  
Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation  
Hon. Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture  
Greg Sorbara, M.P.P. Vaughan  
Bill Fisch, Chair, Region of York  
Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor, City of Vaughan  
Gino Rosati, Regional Councillor, City of Vaughan  
Michael DiBiase, Regional Councillor, City of Vaughan  
Sandra Racco, Councillor, Concord/Thornhill North, City of Vaughan  
Clayton Harris, City Manager, City of Vaughan  
Bill Robinson, Commissioner of Engineering Services & Public Works, City of Vaughan  
John Zipay, Commissioner of Planning, City of Vaughan  
Andrew Pearce, Director of Development & Transportation Engineering, City of Vaughan  
Grant Uyeyama, Director of Planning, City of Vaughan  
Bruce McGregor, Chief Administrative Officer  
Brian Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning & Development Services, Region of York  
Mary-Frances Turner, President, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation  
Lorna Zappone, Project Officer, Ministry of Environment  
Loy Cheah, Region of York